

needed \$3 billion investment in maternal health. The President's proposal provides an opportunity to make considerable investments in federal funding to address this crisis, including policies included in the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 and a permanent expansion of yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage. By advancing these two priorities in the recent recovery package, we comprehensively addressed every driver of our nation's maternal health crisis.

The Momnibus includes investments that will be needed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, including investments in community-based organizations, policies to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, expanded access to maternal mental health care treatments and support, measures to address the impacts of climate change on maternal and infant health outcomes, and provisions to protect pregnant people during this pandemic and any future public health emergency.

My bill, the Maternal Vaccination Act or H.R. 951, directly addresses the health of both moms and babies. This bill is critically important because although we know that maternal vaccinations are important for the health of moms and babies, only half of pregnant people get their flu vaccines and less than half get Tdap vaccinations to protect against pertussis.

With pertussis on the rise and outbreaks occurring across the United States, we need to invest in initiatives to promote maternal immunizations and address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal vaccination rates. Even though, white adults have higher vaccination coverage than Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American adults, there is more that can be done to close this gap.

I was proud to author the Maternal Vaccination Act because it provides funding for programs to increase maternal vaccination rates, protecting both new moms and their babies.

Specifically, the Maternal Vaccination Act will provide funding for a public and provider awareness campaign to promote maternal and child vaccinations. This includes initiatives to increase awareness about the safety, importance, and effectiveness of vaccines for pregnant and postpartum people and their children; provide targeted, evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate resources about vaccines to pregnant and postpartum people, particularly in communities with historically low vaccination rates; and provide evidence-based information and resources on the safety and importance of maternal and child vaccinations to public health departments, maternal health care providers, and perinatal health workers.

This bill, like the Build Back Better Act legislation, will provide historic investments from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to save moms' lives, end racial and ethnic maternal health disparities, and advance birth equity across the United States.

ALBERT ZONA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Albert Zona of Pleasantville, South Jersey. At the age of 18, Albert was drafted into the Army during World War II and

was stationed in Japan. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Sergeant in 1947. After he was discharged, Albert worked several full-time jobs as an auto mechanic until he was able to start his own business. He then opened his first service station at Edgewater Avenue and Main Street and was one of the eight original founding members of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Company, Station 2. Around 1952, Al moved his service station to Absecon and transferred from Pleasantville to Absecon Volunteer Fire Department. He then sold that service station in 1998, ending his career as a volunteer firefighter. Al should be proud of his accomplishments and service to the South Jersey community and to America. I thank Al for his service. God Bless Al and God Bless America.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JOAQUIN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Joaquin Memorial High School on its 75th anniversary. On October 1, 2021, this phenomenal educational institution will have been serving the youth of the San Joaquin Valley for 75 years.

San Joaquin Memorial was founded in 1945 by the late Most Reverend Philip G. Scher and was the first Diocesan Catholic High School with junior high students in the Monterey-Fresno Diocese. San Joaquin Memorial was named by individuals from the San Joaquin Valley who gave their lives in World War II.

That same year of 1945, classes commenced after the construction was completed on the first three buildings. Shortly thereafter, the fourth and fifth buildings were constructed and ready to be filled with students. The first mass was held on October 3rd; the first rally was on November 9th and the first football game on November 19th. The first yearbook was released in May of 1946. The school has continuously expanded and more programs were added. Since then, the high school has become a premiere educational institution in the Valley.

During the 1970s, Brother Phillip and Sister Ann Veronica became the first Vice-Principals of the high school. In 1981, Mary Alice Diener Library was built, and the science building was dedicated to the memory of Br. S. Albert FSC and Sr. Paola Harbeke CSC. Both individuals were the founding principals for San Joaquin Memorial.

The school is home to state-of-the-art technology, strong community service involvement, and several programs outside of standard scholarly activity for their students to take advantage of. They won the 1991 Valley Football Championship over Garces in the Super Holy Bowl and continuing into the 2000s, they dominated in athletics with many talented young student athletes and a talented coaching staff. Because of these advancements, many athletes enjoyed new equipment and renovations by generous individuals who had a passion for the school.

Over the years, San Joaquin Memorial has emphasized their commitment to faith, service,

and community within a rigorous college-preparatory learning environment that effectively prepares their students for their university education and the work force.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my Alma Mater, San Joaquin Memorial High School on its 75th anniversary. Its service and contributions to the State of California and the San Joaquin Valley will always be celebrated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Government Accountability Office Home Rule Act. This bill would repeal the authority of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) over the District of Columbia.

GAO, a federal agency that conducts investigations and audits for Congress, has the same authority over D.C. that it has over federal agencies. GAO's authorizing statute defines D.C. as a federal agency. In addition, GAO's authorizing statute and the D.C. Home Rule Act require GAO to engage in specific types of oversight of D.C.

D.C. is not a federal agency, and it should never be treated as such. The District already has a locally appointed auditor and inspector general, so GAO's authority over D.C. is both redundant and offensive. GAO does not have general authority over states and cities, and therefore should not have such authority over D.C.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District and does not require statehood. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MADAME JOSEPHINE BAKER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a very historic occasion for the international community as we celebrate the life of American-born singer, dancer, World War II hero and civil rights icon Josephine Baker.

On November 30th, Madame Baker will be reinterred in a ceremony at the Pantheon monument in Paris, France. This will make her the first American, the first Black woman, and the first entertainer to receive the country's highest honor. Madame Baker's induction into the Paris Pantheon will put her among the company of the highest French achievers in Arts, Letters, and Science.

Though born an American citizen, Madame Baker lived most of her life in France and became a French citizen in the 1930s. Growing up homeless and in poverty, she became an internationally recognized entertainer and actress. However, her contributions did not stop